

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6303

BILL NUMBER: SB 52

NOTE PREPARED: Nov 27, 2014

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: State Response to Federal Environmental Policies.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Buck

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FIRST SPONSOR:

FUNDS AFFECTED: ☒ **GENERAL**
☐ **DEDICATED**
☐ **FEDERAL**

IMPACT: State

STATE IMPACT	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
State Revenues			
State Expenditures		1,000,000	
Net Increase (Decrease)		(1,000,000)	

Summary of Legislation: This bill establishes the Federal Natural Resource Policy Account for influencing, litigating, or mitigating federal natural resource policy decisions. It specifies the permitted uses of the account. It requires annual reporting on the use of the account. The bill also appropriates \$1,000,000 to the account.

Effective Date: July 1, 2015.

Explanation of State Expenditures: Summary - This bill establishes the nonreverting Federal Natural Resource Policy Account within the state General Fund and appropriates \$1 M to the account in FY 2016. These funds may be spent beginning in FY 2016 and thereafter.

Additional Information - The Federal Natural Resource Policy Account established by this bill will contain the following: appropriations made by the General Assembly; interest accrued from investments by the Treasurer of State; and grants, gifts, and donations. The account will be administered by the State Budget

Agency.

Money in the account may be expended by the Governor on behalf of the state and its county governments for various purposes including the preparation and participation in environmental impact statements and environmental assessments, paying for participation in accordance with regulations promulgated by the federal Council on Environmental Quality, paying for participation in litigation, monitoring federal natural resource issues, and other purposes.

Priority must be given to the following purposes for expenditures:

- (1) To pay for actions that the Governor determines are necessary or advisable to protect the state's jurisdictional, economic, or property interests from actions taken by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.
- (2) To enhance the ability of a county to participate in federal natural resource policy matters.

The bill requires the Governor to report to the Legislative Council annually on the account's expenditures and the purposes of the expenditures.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: State Budget Agency; Governor.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources:

Fiscal Analyst: Jessica Harmon, 317-232-9854.